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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

VOLUME 66 NUMBER 8

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

LATE NEWS

Exports of cotton from the United States in December 1952 totaled 485,000 bales of 500 pounds gross (466,000 running bales) including France, 93,000 bales, Italy 91,000, Japan 77,000, United Kingdom 77,000, Canada 39,000, Western Germany 23,000, Netherlands 16,000, Belgium 13,000, Yugoslavia 11,000, and Sweden 6,000. The August-December total of 1,506,000 bales (1,446,000 running bales) represents 52 percent of the total of 2,979,000 bales (2,873,000 running bales) for a corresponding period a year ago.

Imports of cotton into the United States in December totaled 33,263 bales of 500 pounds gross including 27,546 from Egypt, 2,585 from Peru, 2,038 from India, 816 from Mexico, 277 from Pakistan, and 1 from Japan. Imports during August-December 1952 totaled 72,061 bales compared with 14,194 for a corresponding period a year ago. Cumulative totals (August-December 1952) from the principal sources were Egypt 35,000 bales, Mexico 16,000, India 11,000, and Peru 9,000.

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FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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1953 BRAZIL NUT FORECAST ABOVE AVERAGE

The 1953 preliminary forecast of the Brazil nut harvest is 33,000 short tons, unshelled basis, compared with 18,700 tons (revised) in 1951 and 33,000 tons in 1950. The present forecast exceeds the 10-year (1941-50) average of 19,900 tons by 66 percent and the 5-year (1946-50) average of 27,100 tons by 22 percent. It is now forecast that about 19,250 tons will be collected in the Belem area, 12,870 tons in Manaus, 770 tons in Itacoatiara and the balance in Parintins.

The increase in the collection of nuts this year is due to the heavier set of fruit on trees in the more important producing areas. As in other recent years, some sources claim the streams lack sufficient water for the successful movement of available nuts. On the basis of available information at this time, if appears the "shortage" of water is not serious. The more optimistic in the Amazon Basin believe the collection of Brazil nuts could reach as high as 38,500 short tons. This figure is physically possible but there is considerable doubt at this time that such a tonnage will actually be collected. It is possible that the more optimistic figures reflect the position of some persons in the market in hopes of lower prices to the producers. The condition of the markets abroad, rather than the nuts on the trees, will in the final analysis determine the quantity actually brought to export centers.

Arrivals from interior points to date have been slow. It is estimated that to the end of January 1953 only about 470 short tons had reached Belem and Manaus combined of which 376 tons arrived at Manaus and the balance at Belem. The volume arrivals are not expected until late February or early March.

Actual exports to date have been small with a shipment of about 35 short tons of unshelled from Manaus to the United Kingdom in January being the only one reported to date for new-crop nuts. There were some shipments of shelled to the United States in January but these were reported to be the balance of the 1952 harvest. Manaus reports 275 short tons of unshelled 1953 crop were fixed for shipment to the United Kingdom in mid-February. It is reported sales to date to the United States are 1,100 short tons large unshelled and 10,000 cases of shelled but no actual shipments have been reported. Sales reported to the United Kingdom are 1,100 short tons of large unshelled, and 5,000 cases of shelled, part of which have now been lifted. All sales of unshelled reported todate have been from Manaus, while all sales of shelled were in Belem. The reported sales to date which have not yet been lifted are reported for March/April.

BRAZIL NUTS: Estimated commercial production in Brazil, 1953 with comparisons

(Rounded to nearest 100 short tons)

Year	Bolivia	Brazil	Total
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Average:			
1941-50	1,000	19,900	20,900
1945-50	100	27,100	27,200
Annual:			
1946	100	27,500	27,600
1947	100	30,400	30,500
1948	100	18,900	19,000
1949	200	35,200	35,400
1950	200	23,200	23,400
1951	200	33,000	33,200
1952 1/	200	2/ 18,700	2/ 18,900
1953 3/	200	33,000	33,200

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Revised. 3/ Preliminary forecast.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, results of office research, Trade and other information.

UNITED STATES: Imports of Brazil nuts (Crop year, September-August)

Country	Average		Annual		
	1941-42 1950-51	1946-47 1950-51	1950-51	1951-52	1952-53 1/
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
			SHELLED		
Brazil	2,565	3,169	2,470	3,069	964
Other	32	11	32	78	77
Total	2,597	3,180	2,502	3,147	1,041
			UNSHELLED		
Brazil	7,193	10,799	4,579	11,870	3,295
Other	5	3	14	0	2
Total	7,198	10,802	4,593	11,870	3,297

1/ 3 months, September through November.
Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

The average f.o.b. quotations for the sales in January were about 16 to 17 cents for unshelled and 56 to 58 cents for shelled to the United States. The sales to the United Kingdom were made on the basis of 120 to 130 shilling for unshelled and 51 to 53 pence per hundredweight for shelled (about U.S. $16.80 to $18.20 and $59.16 to $61.48). Since the end of January, United States importers are reported to be willing to pay from 3 to 5 cents per pound less for shelled for April/May shipment. No change in unshelled quotations has so far been reported. The markets in Brazil during the past 3 weeks have been inactive due to the recently approved new free exchange market legislation. Producers and exporters are awaiting more details on this legislation and are hoping Brazil nuts will be included in the new law.

In addition to the reported sales to the United States and United Kingdom it is understood Sweden and Western Germany have been in the market for as yet undisclosed tonnages.--By Walter R. Schreiber.

WORLD FLAXSEED PRODUCTION UP 1/

World production of flaxseed in 1952 is now estimated at 134.6 million bushels, on the basis of the most recent information available to the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. With output the highest since 1949 when it totaled 141.2 million bushels, the new estimate--the second for the 1952 crop--represents an increase of 9 percent from the outturn in 1951 but is only slightly greater than production in 1950.

Production in North America, comprising 34 percent of the world's output, totaled 45.9 million bushels. The reduction of roughly 1.0 million bushels from the previous season was due to declines in the United States and Mexico that were not fully offset by the sharp increase in Canada.

In Europe, where production in several countries was adversely affected by drought, the estimated production of 9.8 million bushels represents a decline of 4 percent from 1951. Increases are reported only for the Netherlands and Italy.

The Soviet Union is believed to have increased production from last year--to a level possibly approaching the prewar average.

Production in Asia, exclusive of the U.S.S.R. and China, is estimated at 14.5 million bushels. This outturn, a decline of 12 percent from 1951, results chiefly from a drop of more than 2 million bushels in India's production.

1/ A more extensive statement will soon be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular available from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

FLAXSEED: Acreage, yield per acre, and production in specified countries and the world, averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1950-52 1/

Continent and country	Harvested acreage					Yield per acre					Production				
	Average		1950	1951	1952 2/	Average		1950	1951	1952 2/	Average		1950	1951	1952 2/
	1935-39	1945-49				1935-39	1945-49				1935-39	1945-49			
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
NORTH AMERICA															
Canada	307	1,135	560	1,158	1,206	4.9	8.1	8.4	8.5	10.7	1,508	9,252	4,686	9,897	12,961
Mexico	16	101	126	149	124	6.9	13.0	16.6	15.9	15.9	111	1,311	2,087	2,362	1,968
United States	1,451	4,073	4,090	3,904	3,309	7.6	9.6	9.8	8.9	9.4	10,991	39,108	40,236	34,696	31,002
Estimated total	1,774	5,309	4,776	5,210	4,640	-	-	-	-	-	12,610	49,671	47,010	46,955	45,930
EUROPE															
Austria 3/	5	6	4	5	2	7.1	-	-	-	-	36	4/ 38	-	-	-
Belgium 3/	75	69	60	85	74	8.9	8.3	8.3	9.5	9.3	664	570	500	801	693
Denmark	-	21	36	25	22	-	17.6	14.9	14.9	-	-	377	538	380	-
Finland 3/	5/ 9	4/ 16	11	-	-	-	7.5	10.7	-	-	-	4/ 120	120	87	87
France 3/	92	85	99	131	138	5.0	4.8	5.6	5.7	-	464	407	553	754	-
Germany, Federal Republic 3/	4/ 45	4/ 45	19	20	17	10.6	9.9	12.6	12.9	10.3	4/ 476	4/ 451	240	252	174
Greece	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	79	4/ 118	79	79	-
Italy 3/	30	42	45	44	47	6.7	8.6	10.2	10.7	11.9	202	362	457	465	563
Netherlands 3/	42	37	47	74	83	13.0	12.2	10.9	10.8	12.7	546	449	509	796	1,061
Spain 3/	6	4/ 11	11	20	-	-	2.2	2.9	4.0	-	-	4/ 23	33	78	-
Sweden	-	53	88	58	51	-	18.0	18.0	16.9	17.1	-	948	1,581	984	866
United Kingdom	4/ 2	41	38	27	17	-	16.0	15.8	17.8	18.8	-	652	600	480	320
Yugoslavia 3/	33	4/ 30	32	30	-	1.6	2.7	1.4	-	-	52	4/ 80	45	-	-
Estimated total	349	471	500	535	510	-	-	-	-	-	2,609	4,595	5,285	5,265	5,130
Other Europe, estimated total	296	364	550	590	630	-	-	-	-	-	2,691	2,715	4,485	4,925	4,630
Estimated total, all Europe (excluding U.S.S.R. 6/	645	835	1,050	1,125	1,140	-	-	-	-	-	5,300	7,310	9,770	10,190	9,760
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia) 3/	4/ 6,434	4/ 3,465	-	-	-	5.1	4.3	-	-	-	4/ 32,115	4/ 14,780	-	-	-

ASIA															
Turkey 3/	48	101	123	100	-	7.3	10.1	8.9	9.8	-	349	1,012	1,100	984	-
India 7/ 8/	3,885	3,528	3,759	3,447	3,298	4.7	4.3	4.4	4.2	3.7	18,096	15,312	16,440	14,440	12,360
Pakistan 9/	-	76	80	66	68	-	6.4	6.5	6.1	7.1	-	488	520	400	480
Japan 3/	50	73	42	46	50	4.2	3.4	4.3	4.0	-	211	248	177	184	-
Estimated total (excluding U.S.S.R. and China) 6/	4,075	4,010	4,240	3,900	3,760	-	-	-	-	-	18,925	17,450	18,630	16,445	14,470
SOUTH AMERICA															
Argentina	6,077	3,010	2,093	1,148	2,100	9.8	10.5	10.5	10.4	12.2	59,571	31,557	22,015	11,900	25,600
Brazil	-	-	64	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	905	1,000	650	1,200
Chile 3/	10/ 5	14	12	14	-	8.2	12.8	14.5	12.5	-	10/ 37	176	171	172	-
Uruguay	407	466	387	455	7/ 494	9.6	8.4	9.5	12.2	6.8	3,894	3,900	3,685	5,575	3,300
Estimated total 6/	6,570	3,595	2,555	1,690	2,710	-	-	-	-	-	64,035	36,540	26,870	18,300	30,270
AFRICA															
Algeria	-	4/ 77	25	5	-	-	6.9	6.9	11.7	-	-	4/ 533	174	58	-
Egypt 3/	7	12	10	7	14	12.4	13.7	15.3	14.0	16.6	87	170	151	98	228
French Morocco	51	120	146	195	160	7.1	6.7	4.3	6.9	6.7	362	797	626	1,339	1,075
Tunisia	1	37	40	-	-	5.6	6.1	5.5	-	-	4	222	217	-	-
Estimated total 6/	65	375	350	325	335	-	-	-	-	-	500	2,515	2,280	2,365	2,500
OCEANIA															
Australia 11/	12/	9	48	65	-	-	8.5	6.8	5.3	-	12/	78	329	347	-
New Zealand	1	11	20	31	23	14.2	10.8	15.0	17.4	15.7	17	4/ 122	300	540	360
Estimated total 6/	1	20	70	100	95	-	-	-	-	-	17	200	630	890	710
Estimated world total	19,565	17,610	19,140	18,600	19,080	-	-	-	-	-	133,500	128,465	134,190	123,145	134,640

1/ Harvests of the Northern Hemisphere countries are combined with those of the Southern Hemisphere which immediately follow; thus the crop harvested in the Northern Hemisphere countries in 1952 is combined with the Southern Hemisphere harvest which began late in 1952 and ends early in 1953. Estimates do not include China where annual production probably varies from 1 to 2 million bushels. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Acreage includes area for fiber. 4/ Average of less than 5 years. 5/ Flax and hemp. 6/ Includes estimates for the above countries for which data are not available and for minor producing countries. 7/ Sown area. 8/ Officially reported figures plus Indian official estimates for unreported tracts for 1935-39 only. Estimates for unreported tracts for 1945-52 not available. 9/ Prior to 1945 figures for India include Pakistan. 10/ 1935 only. 11/ Flax grown for seed only. 12/ Less than 500 acres and 500 bushels.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States foreign service officers, results of office research, or other information. Prewar estimates for countries having changed boundaries have been adjusted to conform to present boundaries.

In South America, the estimated 30.3 million bushels produced--23 percent of the world's total--represents a sharp gain from the abnormally small production of 18.3 million bushels in the previous season. This pronounced increase is accounted for by Argentina's output which was more than twice the quantity harvested the year before. The relatively sharp decline in the estimate of Uruguay's production was due partly to lack of rain during the growing season and to extensive damage by heavy rains early in January when the crop was ready for harvest.

Flaxseed production in Africa, estimated at 2.5 million bushels, is up slightly from 1951. The decrease in production in French Morocco probably was more than offset by increases in Ethiopia and Egypt.

In Oceania output of flaxseed in 1952 totaled 0.7 million bushels, a relatively substantial decline from 1951 owing to a sharp cutback in New Zealand's production.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service reports.

WORLD PINEAPPLE PRODUCTION

The production of pineapple in important specified countries totaled 39.1 million boxes (70 pounds fresh equivalent) in 1952 compared with 39.0 million boxes in 1951 and the 5-year (1935-39) average of 35.0 million boxes.

In important processing areas such as British Malaya and Hawaii, processed weight of segments was converted to the fresh equivalent on the basis of 1 pound processed equals 1.709 pounds of fresh, and juice on the basis 1 pound is equivalent to 1.661 pounds of fresh fruit.

In the Western Hemisphere as a whole, production in 1952 showed little change from a year earlier but in Mexico and Puerto Rico the crop was slightly lower. In the United States it increased substantially. In Hawaii where about one-half the world's pineapples are produced, the crop is indicated to be slightly larger than a year earlier. Most of the pineapple consumed in the United States, where production is relatively small, comes from Mexico, Cuba, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. In Brazil the crop is largely consumed where grown and in 1952 was about the same as in 1951.

Production in British Malaya increased from 1.0 million to 1.2 million boxes, but in the Philippines decreased from 2.1 million to 1.9 million. The South African crop was also decreased slightly but in Australia there was a slight increase.--By Gustave Burmeister, based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service reports.

PINEAPPLE: Production in specified countries
averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1948-52

Country	Averages		1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
	1935-39	1945-49					
	1,000 boxes	1,000 boxes	1,000 boxes	1,000 boxes	1,000 boxes	1,000 boxes	1,000 boxes
Mexico	1,175	3,286	3,910	3,233	4,053	4,225	3,854
United States	14	9	5	5	6	12	19
Cuba	2,229	4,620	5,457	4,529	3,071	3,500	3,500
Dominican Republic	456	208	134	189	325	283	331
Puerto Rico	734	858	1,085	1,120	791	690	640
British Malaya	3,306	166	187	448	924	1,028	1,187
Formosa	3,572	970	1,235	1,363	1,445	1,500	1,500
Philippine Islands	529	447	493	647	1,780	2,127	1,890
Brazil	4,277	3,159	3,191	3,500	4,183	4,326	4,300
Union of South Africa	200	341	387	975	857	1,000	857
Australia	664	789	860	965	1,021	826	1,000
Hawaiian Islands	17,816	16,178	20,445	19,877	22,082	19,433	20,000
Total	34,972	31,031	37,389	36,851	40,538	38,950	39,078

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States Foreign Service officers, results of office research and other information. Production is from growth of year shown and includes pineapple produced for fresh consumption and processing.

LENTIL PRODUCTION IN SELECTED COUNTRIES BELOW A YEAR AGO [1]

The preliminary estimate of the 1952-53 lentil production in 19 selected countries is 5.4 million bags, 8 percent less than last season but 8 percent above the prewar average of 5 million bags. Acreage was 3 percent less than last year, but 30 percent above prewar. Average yields were lower this season than last, being 601 pounds per acre compared with 636 in 1951 and an annual average of 723 pounds in the prewar period 1935-39.

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[1] A more extensive statement soon will be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

LENTILS: Acreage, production and yield per acre in specified countries, averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1951-52

Continent and Country	Acreage				Yield per acre				Production			
	Average				Average				Average			
	1935-39	1945-49	1951	1952 1/	1935-39	1945-49	1951	1952 1/	1935-39	1945-49	1951	1952 1/
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags
AMERICA												
Mexico	5	7	8	7	412	535	649	686	22	39	53	51
Argentina	34	64	45	45	779	789	1,029	1,111	265	505	463	500
Chile	110	55	50	50	532	595	716	700	585	327	358	350
Total	149	126	103	102	585	691	849	883	872	871	874	901
EUROPE												
France	24	42	26	28	862	540	588	550	207	227	153	149
Greece	26	28	36	40	485	404	539	475	126	113	194	190
Italy	51	60	65	65	527	380	525	525	269	228	341	340
Spain	60	125	99	100	537	406	612	400	322	507	606	650
Total above	161	255	226	233	574	422	573	570	924	1,075	1,294	1,329
Othe Europe	58	48	62	62	667	358	589	427	387	172	365	265
Total	219	303	288	295	599	412	576	540	1,311	1,247	1,659	1,594
MIDDLE EAST												
Iraq	50	23	30	30	264	430	440	440	132	99	132	132
Lebanon	3	5	5	5	833	920	880	920	25	45	44	46
Syria	66	129	140	140	1,180	574	1,571	1,893	779	741	220	265
Turkey	76	107	131	130	661	627	931	924	502	671	1,210	1,200
Total	195	264	306	305	737	589	525	539	1,438	1,556	1,606	1,643
AFRICA												
Algeria	5	39	90	90	417	433	501	392	19	169	451	353
Egypt	82	77	78	60	1,477	1,399	1,326	1,170	1,211	1,077	1,034	702
French Morocco	34	29	40	30	271	293	343	367	92	85	137	110
Spanish Morocco	1	2	3	3	470	452	400	400	6	8	10	10
Tunisia	1	2	6	6	721	597	750	667	9	14	45	40
Total	123	149	217	189	1,087	908	773	643	1,337	1,353	1,677	1,215
TOTAL, Specified Countries	686	842	914	891	723	597	636	601	4,958	5,027	5,816	5,353
PARTIALLY REPORTING COUNTRIES												
Brazil	-	8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	58	62	-
India	-	1,083	1,466	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,860	5,488	-
Pakistan	-	343	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,550	-	-

1/ Preliminary.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of the U.S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research and other information. Years refer to year of harvest in the Northern Hemisphere and includes the harvest immediately following in the Southern Hemisphere. Averages are for years stated or for the nearest comparable period. Yields have been calculated on the basis of unrounded estimates of acreage for countries of small production.

Most of the reduction in yields and production occurred in countries of Eastern Europe where drought struck in 1952 and in North Africa where the Egyptian, Algerian and Moroccan crops were considerably below normal because of reduction in both acreage and yield per acre. Production in Western Europe, on the other hand, was 3 percent higher than last year because of increased acreage. Yields were approximately the same. In South America the 1952-53 crop was only recently being harvested, but last season's crop, harvested early in 1952, was about at the postwar and prewar levels.

In addition to the 19 fully reporting countries included in the foregoing estimates, Brazil, India and Pakistan also produce lentils. Limited data available at present are neither up-to-date nor complete. But information included in the table indicates that Brazilian production is comparatively small. India and Pakistan, on the other hand, together produce about 8 million bags per year. This is about one-half more than the combined production of the 19 fully reporting countries. In spite of the comparatively large production, however, India and Pakistan report no international trade in lentils. The United Kingdom has reported imports from this area in the prewar years amounting to about 220,000 bags annually.--By Orval E. Goodsell, based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service reports.

TUNISIA'S OLIVE OIL ESTIMATE AGAIN REVISED DOWNWARD

Both trade and official sources in Tunisia now estimate 1952-53 edible oil production to be between 36,000 and 38,000 short tons, with an additional 3,800 tons of olive foots oil, reports M. E. Jeneid, American Consulate General, Tunis. The revision is made because of the continued lack of rains in the Sahel and Sfax regions of Tunisia that has prevented normal ripening of the olives. This figure is in striking contrast to the optimistic forecast of over 100,000 tons made in March 1952 and further reduces the estimate of around 50,000 tons made late in January. (See Foreign Crops and Markets of January 26, 1953, page 75.) Moreover, it means output will be well below the 1943-52 average of 45,000 tons.

Prices of olive oil in Tunisia continue to react to this situation and are above world market levels with sellers reticent. Quotations made at Sfax on February 5, 1953, were as follows: "lampante" grade (3 to 5 degrees acidity)--226 francs per kilogram (29.3 cents per pound); and "premiere" grade (maximum acidity 1 degree)--228 francs (29.5 cents). The rise in prices is slackening but the tendency remains upward.

On the basis of a 38,000-ton yield, a carry-over stock of 5,500 tons from last season, and domestic needs totaling 33,000 tons, theoretically Tunisia could dispose of a 11,000-ton export surplus during the period November 1, 1952-October 31, 1953. If, however, the authorities insist on a security margin and reserve a quantity for that purpose, the exportable surplus would be reduced by as much. It is reported, also, that domestic consumption during coming months should fall considerably short of the normal 2,750 tons monthly as a result of reduced purchasing power in the regions affected by the near-drought conditions.

BRAZIL'S 1953 OILSEED CROP MAY FALL BELOW LAST YEAR'S LARGE OUTPUT 1/

Brazil's production of vegetable oilseeds in 1953 may be somewhat below the 1952 output of some 1,545,000 short tons, the largest in several years, according to the American Embassy, Rio de Janeiro. Cottonseed production, which was unusually large in 1952 and mainly responsible for the large total oilseed crop, is expected to be down about one-fourth in 1953. However, a considerable quantity of the cottonseed harvested in 1952 will be carried over for crushing in 1953. This should maintain the production of cottonseed oil at a high level through 1953 and make available some 20,000 to 30,000 tons for export.

BRAZIL: Production of specified oilseeds, 1952 with comparisons

(Short tons)

Commodity	Average 1935-39	1950 1/	1951 1/ 2/	1952 1/ 2/
Cottonseed	987,440	699,950	628,000	1,003,000
Castor beans	148,000	3/ 202,820	3/ 193,000	193,000
Babassu kernels	46,250	77,000	82,700	44,000
Peanuts 3/	14,760	130,280	166,400	170,000
Oiticica seed	4/ 23,900	40,800	33,000	16,500
Flaxseed 5/	-	6/ 27,500	6/ 17,600	6/ 27,500
Sesame seed 7/	-	5,510	5,730	1,760
Soybeans 5/	-	38,600	67,200	86,000
Tucum nuts	8/ 3,108	8,260	9,600	5,000
Tung fruit 3/	430	7,210	7,460	7,700
Ouricuri nuts	3,540	3/ 6,724	4,960	1,300

1/ Unofficial estimates except as noted. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Estimates of the Ministry of Agriculture. 4/ 1937-39. 5/ Official state estimate for Rio Grande do Sul. 6/ Equivalent in 1,000 bushels: 1950--984; 1951--630; 1952--984. 7/ Official state estimate for Sao Paulo. 8/ Exports.

Compiled from official and unofficial sources.

1/ A more extensive statement will soon be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular available from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

Due to dry weather, production of babassu kernels in 1953 again may be no more than enough to cover domestic requirements, or about 44,000 tons. The sharp reduction in kernel output in 1952 did not reduce the availability in the domestic market as the entire production of oil was reserved for local consumption. Peanut and soybean production also are expected to be about the same as last year. Flaxseed production in 1952 in Rio Grande do Sul is estimated by the trade at 984,000 bushels, substantially above 1951 and about the same as in 1950. In North Brazil production of oilseeds has been reduced drastically by lack of rain during the past 3 years. The harvests of oiticica, tucum, and ouricuri in both 1952 and 1953 are estimated to be only about 50 percent of normal. Carnauba wax output (which is reported separately and not included in this summary) was estimated at around 12,350 tons for the current 1952-53 season (see Foreign Crops and Markets of February 9, 1953, page 114).

Castor bean production in Sao Paulo is estimated at about the same level as in 1952 or about 50,000 tons. Planting of the main crop in North Brazil, however, will not start until March. The size of this crop will be determined largely by (1) the regulations to be issued concerning the export of castor beans or oil under the provisions of the free exchange legislation, (2) prices of competing crops, and (3) the weather at planting time.

The free exchange market legislation becomes effective on February 23 and the regulation governing the operations of the market are expected to be announced before the effective date of the legislation. Until these regulations are known, it will be difficult to forecast shifts in production and trade.

Production of vegetable oils in Brazil has increased from about 138,000 tons in 1947 to 230,400 tons in 1951. In 1952 production of vegetable oils was believed to have been even higher. The 1953 output also is expected to be greater than in 1951. Castor oil production in 1952 however, is reported to have been less than that of 1951 or possibly 33,000 to 38,000 tons. It is estimated that not over 22,000 tons were exported in 1952 and about 10,000 tons were consumed locally.

Exports of specified vegetable oils and oilseeds from Brazil during January-September 1952 (with entire year 1951 exports in parentheses) were as follows: castor oil--17,562 tons (32,596); castor beans--22,638 (55,554); oiticica oil--5,431 (10,937); soybeans--20,475 (43,734); tucum nuts--133 (9,624); cottonseed oil--0 (9,539); tung oil--470 (137); babassu oil--251 (13,376); babassu kernels--0 (13,869); peanuts--984 (3,256); ouricuri wax--702 (2,113); and carnauba wax (January-June)--5,714 tons (10,559). With the exception of soybeans (which went to Germany, the United Kingdom and Japan) and peanuts (mainly to Germany), the bulk of the vegetable oilseeds and oils exported in 1952 was taken by the United States.

Brazil is a large consumer of olive oil but presently is dependent on foreign markets to meet the country's entire requirements. Imports of olive oil in January-August 1952 amounted to 3,839 tons, against 9,362 tons in 1951 and 11,497 tons in 1950.

CANADA'S MARINE OIL OUTPUT DOWN BY ONE-HALF

Canadian marine oil production in 1952 is estimated at 19,070 short tons, or little more than one-half the 36,240 tons produced in 1951, reports William L. Rodman, Assistant Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Ottawa. Competition from lower priced vegetable oils and synthetic vitamins, and the re-entry into the market of Japanese fish oils, caused Canadian processing firms to reduce the price they would pay for fish. As a result, many fishermen went on strike and 1952 Canadian landings of sea fish were 10 percent lower than the previous year. Strikes particularly hampered the British Colombia herring and salmon fisheries.

Although cod landings were large off the Maritime Provinces, they were not sufficient to offset the greatly reduced Newfoundland catch. Only one whaling firm operated in Newfoundland last year, whereas in 1951 there were 3. Seal oil production likewise decreased due to a limited market and low returns to producers.

The breakdown of the 1952 marine oil output (with 1951 production in parentheses) was as follows: cod oil (all types)--4,740 tons (6,010); herring body and offal oil--6,940 (16,340); salmon offal oil--190 (970); grayfish liver oil--260 (340); seal oil--2,970 (4,360); and other marine oil (mainly whale)--3,970 tons (8,220).

INDONESIAN COPRA EXPORTS JANUARY 1953

Indonesian exports of copra during January 1953 totaled 14,005 long tons, a decrease of 9 percent from the previous month and less than half the quantity shipped during January of last year. The breakdown of the January 1953 copra exports, by country of destination, is as follows: Western Germany--5,517 tons; the Netherlands--4,896; Norway--3,001; and Japan--591 tons.

Copra Foundation purchases during January amounted to 30,018 tons, of which 26,770 tons originated in East Indonesia and 3,248 tons in West Borneo. Deliveries of copra to local oil mills were reported at 15,284 tons. The buying price in East Indonesia remains at 130 rupiahs per 100 kilograms, including packing, and is guaranteed until the end of February.

BURMESE SESAME CROP UP IN 1952-53

The Government of Burma has estimated sesame production in 1952-53 at 61,260 short tons, a sizable increase from the 53,980 tons harvested during the preceding season and somewhat larger than the annual average output of 56,670 tons during 1936-40, reports James H. Boulware, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Rangoon. Area estimates for 1952-53 were 1,332,000 acres planted and 1,065,000 acres harvested, against comparable data of 1,322,000 and 1,015,000 acres for 1951-52. This would indicate that yields per harvested acre in 1952-53 were up about 8 percent from the previous year.

PAKISTAN INCREASES AREA UNDER RAPE AND MUSTARD

The Government of Pakistan's initial forecast of the area under rape and mustard for the year 1952-53 is 1,649,000 acres, an increase of 6.5 percent from the 1,548,000 acres reported in the first forecast of the previous year, reports Henry W. Spielman, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Karachi. In the final forecast of 1951-52 acreage and production was reported at 1,855,000 acres and 338,240 short tons, respectively.

According to a Press note issued by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture in Karachi, there is a general increase in the acreage of this crop throughout Pakistan, with the exception of the Khairpur State. A substantial increase of 25.5 percent in the acreage of rape and mustard in the Punjab is due to extensive cultivation in the unirrigated tracts of Khushab Kahsil.

PAKISTAN REPORTS INCREASED SESAME SEED PRODUCTION

Pakistan's 1952-53 sesame seed crop is placed at 39,200 short tons from 203,000 acres according to the final official forecast reported by Henry W. Spielman, Agricultural Attache, Karachi. This is a slight increase from the final forecasts for 1951-52 of 38,080 tons from 196,000 acres.

There has been, except in Bahawalpur State, a general increase in acreage of this crop throughout Pakistan. This is attributed to favorable weather conditions and high market prices of edible oils.

RELAXED CONTROL OF ETHIOPIAN COFFEE SALES

The exchange regulations requiring that all Ethiopian coffee be exported only against United States dollars was revised, effective January 8, 1953, to provide that:

1. 60 percent of all sales of coffee and goat skins shall be for United States dollars, and up to 40 percent may be sold for sterling.

2. Exporters will be given preference over importers in obtaining exchange for imports.

3. Exchange remittances must be made to the State Bank within 3 months of export transactions.

4. Delinquents will not be permitted to take advantage of the new exchange regulations.

In spite of this arrangement, it is expected that 75 - 80 percent of the coffee will still continue to flow into United States markets. Exchange remittances to the State Bank for United States dollar and sterling coffee sales are set at differing relative rates; however, required exchange remittances for one metric ton of coffee sold against United States dollars is still $900, while the sterling remittance for the same quantity is £375, thus the dollar remittance is $152.80 per metric ton lower than the United States market price of $1,052.80 (computed on the basis of 47 cents per pound). The sterling remittance, though comparatively higher, is still lower than the sterling market price. Now, merchants desirous of obtaining sterling are forced to sell to genuine sterling markets and not to initial consignees who ultimately sell the coffee to United States importers. However, the larger residue resulting from dollar sales as compared to sterling sales, continues to stimulate the flow of the vast majority of the Ethiopian coffee crop to the United States.

Already the maximum price has dropped from £425 a metric ton a few months ago to £410. The current high sterling coffee prices will probably moderately increase the amount of Ethiopian coffee exported to sterling markets, but with the bumper crop expected this year, it will be possible for Ethiopia to supply any added European demands and still maintain or even increase its level of exports to the United States.

1952-53 COTTON EXPORTS FROM PAKISTAN ABOVE LAST YEAR

Exports of raw cotton from Pakistan during August-November 1952 totaled 244,000 bales (500 pounds gross), a substantial increase over the 94,000 bales exported during the comparable period a year earlier, according to Henry W. Spielman, Agricultural Attache, Karachi. Of the total exports during the first 4 months of the current season, 76,000 bales were shipped to Japan, 74,000 bales to China, and 25,000 bales to the Soviet Union, compared with 10,000 bales, 17,000 bales, and insignificant quantities, respectively, to these countries during these months in 1951.

Steps were taken by the Government of Pakistan during the latter part of 1951-52 and in September of the current season to encourage the exports of cotton because of abnormally large stocks. Increased exports toward the end of 1951-52 (also in August 1952) reflected the effects of a government-support program effective until September 1, 1952, under which substantial quantities of cotton were bought by the government and later sold for export at substantial discounts. With respect to the 1952-53 crop, announcement was made on September 10, 1952, that the export duty on Desi cotton was being removed and the duty on all other types reduced by 50 percent. Additional steps have also recently been taken to expedite the exporting of the small stocks remaining on hand from the last 2 crop years. Export duty has been removed on 1950-51 cotton and the duty in excess of 60 rupees per bale of 400 pounds (3.15 U.S. cents per pound) has been eliminated on 1951-52 cotton. Even though relatively large quantities of cotton were exported during the latter part of 1951-52 and in the first four months of 1952-53, stocks are still at a rather high level reflecting the effect

PAKISTAN: Cotton exports by countries of destination; annual 1948-49, 1949-50, 1950-51, 1951-52, and August-November 1951 and 1952

(Equivalent bales of 500 pounds gross)

Country of destination	Year beginning August 1				August-November	
	1948-49	1949-50	1950-51	1951-52	1951	1952
	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales
Belgium	21.5	7.5	6.5	.2	.2	.5
Czechoslovakia	30.7	17.5	7.1	10.5	1.2	0
Finland	1.2	7.0	21.8	2.8	1.2	0
France	11.4	102.7	75.5	59.8	5.3	16.6
Germany	7.3	26.6	38.1	26.3	10.7	13.0
Italy	12.8	35.7	89.8	58.6	16.5	1.4
Netherlands	.6	11.6	8.0	.8	.7	1.0
Poland	1/	26.5	33.8	52.2	0	0
Spain	5.4	23.2	44.0	18.8	11.9	2.5
Sweden	20.0	1.4	15.0	.3	.2	.6
United Kingdom	86.1	49.8	102.2	67.1	1.0	1.5
Yugoslavia	2.0	21.5	.8	0	0	0
Australia	1.7	20.0	50.6	7.9	.1	5.7
French India	1/	29.0	21.4	6.5	2.8	1.8
Hong Kong	34.3	196.7	119.4	66.1	13.9	21.5
China	33.8	39.2	108.7	300.9	16.9	73.7
India	278.9	5.0	.3	.3	.3	0
Japan	61.1	123.2	280.9	234.1	9.5	76.4
United States	14.0	2.2	3.0	.3	.1	.4
Soviet Union	52.0	69.9	0	0	0	24.6
Other countries	2.1	2/ 15.6	14.9	5.2	1.2	2.7
Total	676.9	831.8	1,041.8	918.7	93.7	243.9

1/ If any, included in other countries. 2/ Austria 6.5, Chile 6.3.

U.S. Foreign Service Reports

Official consumption statistics for the current season are not yet available but it appears that mill activity thus far has been slightly higher than in last season and may increase even more during the remainder of this season. Consumption during the entire 1952-53 season may approximate 205,000 bales (165,000 bales of mill consumption and 40,000 bales of extra-factory consumption), compared with 175,000 bales last season. It has been reported that low prices of cotton are encouraging the use of larger-than-usual amounts of cotton instead of other fibers for making mattresses and for other forms of stuffing.

With respect to the 1952-53 crop, it now appears that production will total about 1,450,000 bales (500 pounds gross), somewhat below some of the earlier estimates but about 100,000 bales above the 1951-52 crop.

It has been reported that arrivals of cotton in Karachi from the Sind area are proceeding at about the same rate as in 1951-52 but arrivals from Punjab are somewhat behind last season's rate. One of the indicated reasons for the lag in arrivals from Punjab is that ginners are delaying the placing of the cotton on the market because of their hopes that prices will advance as they have during the early months of the past 3 seasons. Another contributing factor is the difficulty in obtaining storage space in Karachi. The second official acreage estimate (latest available) places this season's acreage at 3,193,000 acres, consisting of 2,762,000 acres of American-type cotton and 451,000 acres of Desi (Asiatic). In past years the second official acreage estimates have been considerably lower than the final estimate. The final 1951-52 cotton acreage totaled 3,376,000 acres.

CONSUMPTION OF COTTON IN WESTERN GERMANY ABOUT SAME AS LAST SEASON

Consumption of raw cotton in Western Germany during August-November 1952 totaled about 340,000 bales (500 pounds gross), practically unchanged from the quantity consumed during the comparable period a year earlier. Spinning activity has increased markedly since June 1952 when only 63,000 bales (low point for the 1951-52 season) were consumed. The highest monthly consumption thus far in 1952-53 was 99,000 bales in October. In November consumption declined to 89,000 bales (preliminary estimate) but this decline may be partially attributed to fewer working days during this month. Consumption during 1951-52, which was on a lower level in the latter part of the season, totaled 940,000 bales, a decline of 105,000 bales from 1950-51.

The monthly pattern of cotton consumption since the summer of 1952 is reflected by the outturn of yarn, which steadily increased from 36.9 million pounds in June to 63.0 million pounds in October. Official estimates for November and December are not available but private sources indicate outturns of about 60.0 million pounds during each of these months. Inventories of yarn are said to be at a rather high level.

Imports of raw cotton during August-November 1952 totaled 316,000 bales (500 pounds gross) compared with 245,000 bales during the comparable period in 1951-52. Of this season's imports a total of 83,000 bales was received from the United States, 53,000 from Egypt, 32,000 from Mexico, 31,000 from the Belgian Congo, and 31,000 from Turkey. This compares with receipts of 111,000 bales, 17,000, 11,000, 4,000, and 34,000, respectively, from these countries during August-November 1951. It appears that stocks of raw cotton at the end of November were somewhat lower than those held at the beginning of this season (150,000 bales) inasmuch as the quantity consumed during the first 4 months of the current season exceeded the amounts imported by 24,000 bales.

CANADA GRAIN STORAGE CAPACITY

Total grain storage capacity of Canada's grain elevators as of December 1, 1952 was placed at 543 million bushels. This compares with the figure of 531 million bushels for the December 1951 capacity and the all-time record of 605 million bushel capacity in December 1943. The current figure includes storage for 539 million bushels in licensed elevators and annexes and for 3.4 million bushels in unlicensed storage, including permanent and temporary annexes.

Of the licensed storage, space for 454 million bushels was located in the Western Division and 85 million in the Eastern Division. Unlicensed storage was largest in Ontario with 1.7 million bushels reported. The 3 Prairie Provinces together had space for 1.3 million bushels and British Columbia accounts for the remainder.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S GRAIN CROPS LOW

The 1952 wheat crop in the Union of South Africa was considerably smaller than the good wheat outturns of the past 2 years, according to the American Embassy, Praetoria. The wheat harvest, normally completed in December, was estimated at about 19 million bushels, compared with about 25.5 million bushels in 1951 and 26 million in 1950. The 1952 crop was, however, still above the prewar average of 16 million bushels. The outlook for the corn crop to be harvested in April-May is for an outturn about the size of the poor crop harvested the previous year.

The unfavorable outlook for corn is principally because of unfavorable weather in the important producing Transvaal where, after getting off to a good start, the crop was handicapped by excessive rains followed by a general drought. The growth of corn was stunted in some localities so that the plants were tasseling before they reached a height of 3 feet. Some fields have been plowed up and planted to beans.

Imports of both wheat and corn will be needed to cover domestic requirements during the current season. The country's quota of about 11 million bushels of wheat under the International Wheat Agreement may be sufficient to fill the import requirements for wheat. Corn import requirements are expected to come from Southern Rhodesia and the United States, as was the case last year when drought made net imports necessary. This is in contrast with the Union's traditional position as a net exporter of corn. Corn imports during the first 11 months of 1952 amounted to 88,000 short tons, of which 64,000 were from the United States and 24,000 from Southern Rhodesia. During the same period corn exports amounted to 48,000 short tons. This represented orders contracted for in 1951 before the corn shortage was forecast.

Wheat prices to producers for the 1952-53 season are set at a slightly higher level than the 1951-52 rates. The increase amounts to about 15 cents per bushel in United States currency. Fixed prices for cake flour are higher but bread flour is slightly below the rate fixed for 1951-52. The Government is continuing the policy of paying a special subsidy to keep the price of bread low to the consumer. The price of bread has been unchanged from that of the past year making the subsidy payments larger than before, to offset the higher rates paid for wheat.

OKINAWA REQUIRES IMPORTANT QUANTITY OF RICE IMPORTS

Annual rice imports of Okinawa Island currently are stated at 90,000 metric tons (200 million pounds) of milled rice, and foreign sources are being approached for imports in coming years, according to information reaching the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

Consumers of Okinawa prefer a short grain, Japanese, or pearl type, and reportedly are willing to pay a premium for such rice. The United States is one of a few countries producing this type for export.

Okinawa, one of the Ryukyu Island chain, is located between Japan and Taiwan. The United States now has on the island a large air base, and dollar earnings are available to consumers to meet the import requirements of rice. With increasing living standards there, the demand for rice imports is likely to increase in the future.

BURMA INCREASES OFFICIAL RICE PRICES SLIGHTLY

The Government of Burma informed buyers recently that the Government-to-Government price of rice for shipment in the January-June 1953 is slightly higher than the level of last July. Official prices of such rice are to be as follows in dollars per 100 pounds (Kyats per long ton in parantheses): Ngasein Small Mills Special, $7.50 (800); Sughandi, Small Mills Special, $7.83 (835.56); Meedone Bzaar Quality $7.67 (817.78); Meedone Special Quality, $8.00 (853.33); and Milchar, $8.17 (871.11)

Burma's rice allocations in 1953 reportedly are slightly larger than in 1952. Two-thirds of export supplies are to be available at Government prices, and the remainder on a private trade basis.

U.S. TOBACCO EXPORTS IN DECEMBER 1952

United States exports of unmanufactured tobacco during December 1952 totaled 36.7 million pounds, or 39 percent below the 60.6 million pounds exported during the comparable 1951 month. Decreased takings by the United Kingdom is primarily responsible for the over-all decrease.

Exports of unmanufactured tobacco, December 1952, with comparisons (export weight)

Type	December 1951	December 1952
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Flue-cured	53,153	28,085
Burley	2,084	2,454
Dark-fired Kentucky-Tennessee	2,148	2,977
Dark-fired Virginia	269	485
Maryland	431	619
Green River	11	200
One Sucker	188	186
Black Fat	905	275
Cigar Wrapper	452	463
Cigar Binder	342	472
Cigar Filler	67	26
Other	575	498
Total	60,625	36,740

Compiled in the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations from records of the Bureau of the Census.

Exports of tobacco products during December 1952 showed an increase for some classes as compared with December 1951.

Tobacco Products

	December 1951	December 1952
Cigars & Cheroots (1,000 pieces)	250	208
Cigarettes (1,000 pieces)	1,430,842	1,625,881
Chewing tobacco & snuff (pounds)	131,612	283,513
Smoking tobacco in packages (pounds)	78,967	65,703
Smoking tobacco in bulk (pounds)	182,579	180,808

Compiled in the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations from records of the Bureau of the Census.

AUSTRALIAN DAIRY OUTPUT CONTINUES STRONG

Australian milk production during November 1952 was 15.5 percent larger than a year earlier, with big increases in Queensland and New South Wales and a moderate decrease in Victoria.

Fluid milk consumption was smaller during November 1952 than a year earlier despite an increase of 2 percent in population, while deliveries to condenseries and butter and cheese factories were all larger. Production of condensed milk and of the 3 categories of powdered milk was considerably larger during November 1952 than a year earlier, while production of infants' and invalids' foods and of concentrated whole milk was moderately lower.

For the month of December 1952 factory production of both butter and cheese was significantly larger than a year earlier, by 40 and 23 percent respectively.

Dairying prospects at the close of the year were moderately good, as they still are for the balance of the summer. The North Coast of New South Wales and the dairying districts of southeastern Queensland need more rain if they are to have a good summer and autumn, but elsewhere a normal season is virtually assured.

U.S. IMPORTS LESS BEEF IN 1952 BUT MORE PORK

Lower imports of canned beef came from South America in 1952 in comparison to 1951 and lack of imports of fresh beef from Canada more than offset increased imports of fresh, frozen or cured beef from New Zealand and Mexico. Imports of beef from Ireland were only slightly larger in 1952 than 1951. Beef and veal imports in 1952 totalled 252.6 million pounds, product weight, compared to 308.0 million pounds in 1951.

Somewhat more pork, especially hams, was imported in 1952 than in 1951. Larger quantities were imported from Denmark, Netherlands, and Poland. Larger home supplies of pork in the United Kingdom reduced the demand for pork products from Europe thus tending to free supplies for export to the United States. Imports of pork products totalled 62.0 million pounds in 1952 compared to 49.0 million pounds in 1951. Imports of mutton and lamb were 6.2 million pounds compared to 6.7 in 1951. (Availability of December trade figures makes possible these calendar year comparisons. Details are given in a circular available upon request.)

JAPAN HALTS PURCHASES OF SOYBEANS AND TALLOW FROM DOLLAR AREAS

The issuance of import licenses for soybeans and beef tallow from dollar areas has been suspended by the Japanese Government, effective February 6, according to the American Embassy, Tokyo. This action resulted from the fact that the dollar purchases of these commodities already had exceeded the amount of dollar exchange allocated for their purchase during the second half of the Japanese fiscal year ending March 31, 1953. It is expected, however, that the issuance of the import licenses for soybeans and beef tallow will be resumed on April 1 when exchange allocations for the first half of 1953 become available.

ARGENTINA'S EXPORTS OF VEGETABLE OILS MAY INCREASE IN 1953 [1]

Argentina's Trade Promotion Institute (IAPI) is expected to have more than 330,000 short tons of linseed oil available for export in 1953, reports Agricultural Attache C.A. Boonstra, American Embassy, Buenos Aires. The estimated carry-over of linseed oil in Argentina on January 1, 1953 was nearly 193,000 tons, and it appears that 154,000 tons of oil may be expected from the crush of the 1952 flaxseed crop.

Exports of sunflower seed oil this year probably will be less than 22,000 tons. While holdings by the IAPI totaled nearly 77,000 tons on January 1, production of oil from the small prospective sunflower seed crop this year is expected to be 165,000 tons--somewhat less than the annual domestic requirement.

Tung oil exports in 1953 probably will be about 11,000 tons. While stocks on the first of the calendar year appeared to be about 6,600 tons, the coming tung fruit crop is expected to be the largest on record.

The export of substantial quantities of lard, primer jus, and tallow in 1953 is considered unlikely since domestic prices for these animal fats are above export-price levels.

Argentina's exports of vegetable oils and animal fats in 1952, according to unofficial data from ships' manifests, were as follows: Linseed oil--34,042 short tons; tung oil--10,920; sunflower seed oil--11,051; lard--2,885; primer jus-405; and tallow--65. In addition about 1,025,000 bushels of flaxseed were exported.

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[1] A more extensive statement will soon be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular available from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

1952-53 COTTON EXPORTS FROM EGYPT ABOVE 1951-52

Exports of raw cotton from Egypt during August-October 1952, the latest months for which official statistics are available, totaled 451,000 bales (500 pounds gross) compared with only 162,000 bales during the comparable period a year earlier. The principal recipients of Egyptian cotton during August-October 1952 were France, Italy, the Soviet Union, and Western Germany, shipments to which amounted to 67,000 bales, 67,000 bales, 51,000 bales, and 47,000 bales, respectively.

Shipments were particularly heavy in August 1952 (344,000 bales compared with only 51,000 bales in August 1951) partly because the reimposition of cotton export taxes on September 1, 1952, had been announced at the time of their temporary suspension in May 1952. Exports declined sharply in September after export duties were reimposed (at a lower rate). Unofficial estimates place exports during November-December 1952 at about 250,000 bales, an increase of approximately 25,000 bales over the quantity exported during these months in 1951. It appears that about half of the November-December shipments were to France, Italy, and Western Germany.

Stocks of raw cotton held at the beginning of this season (August 1, 1952) were at a very high level, totaling 892,000 bales (500 pounds gross), of which about 370,000 bales were government-owned, having been purchased under the 1951-52 purchase program. As of January 10, 1953, government-held stocks had been reduced to 319,000 bales, consisting of 151,000 bales of Karnak, 17,000 bales of Menoufi, 114,000 bales of Ashmouni, 20,000 bales of Zagora, and 17,000 bales of Giza 30. These stocks have been graded and classified and constitute the bulk of the cotton in Egypt available for immediate sale.

Consumption of raw cotton thus far in 1952-53 has been at a slightly higher level than in the same period a year earlier. Consumption during the entire 1951-52 season totaled 292,000 bales (500 pounds gross). The bulk of the current mill production reportedly is going into utility goods for local consumption, the prices of which are government-controlled. For some months the textile mills have been petitioning the government for aid either in the form of cash subsidies, increased duties on imported textiles, or cheaper cotton. It has been reported that approval has been given to a plan under which the government will sell cotton on credit to mills at a nominal interest charge and at fixed prices but the details of this plan apparently have not been worked out.

The latest official estimate of the 1952-53 production, 1,946,000 bales (500 pounds gross), compares with 1,666,000 bales in 1951-52. Such a production would be the largest since 1937. This year's large crop, together with the substantial stocks on hand, appears to have resulted in an intensified effort to reduce the 1953-54 acreage, particularly for Karnak.

The 1952-53 cotton crop is being purchased by the Government of Egypt at previously announced prices. On January 9, 1953, the Government's buying price (fixed) was equivalent to 38.94 U.S. cents a pound for Good Karnak and 34.62 cents for Good Ashmouni. Government selling prices (based on New York spot prices) on that date were equivalent to 34.77 cents and 30.77 cents, respectively. Minimum permitted export prices were 42.84 cents and 36.25 cents. The spot market prices (being paid mostly by local mills) in Egypt were 37.21 cents and 32.02 cents, respectively. These price ratios are tending to channel all cotton for export through Government buying agencies thence to exporters at lower prices for sale abroad. When the purchase program was announced it was also indicated that the various decree laws under which the Government was guaranteeing bank loans against the 1952-53 crop were being rescinded.